



MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
P.O. Box 30014
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

Minutes of the House Standing Committee
on
Natural Resources

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

9:00 a.m.

Room 326, House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Representative Andrea L. LaFontaine, Chair.

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The Clerk called the roll; members present were **Representatives LaFontaine, Rendon, Forlini, Goike, Kivela, Smiley, and Plawecki. (7/9)**

Members absent and excused were **Representatives Lyons and McBroom. (2/9)**

The Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

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The Chair laid before the committee the minutes of March 8, 2016 as printed.

Representative Forlini moved to adopt the minutes of March 8, 2016 as printed.

There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the minutes were adopted as printed.

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The Chair laid before the committee Senate Bill 591.

SB 591 (Casperson) Natural resources; mining; small native copper mining operations; establish separate regulatory program for.

Senator Casperson, the bill sponsor, explained the need for the legislation to the committee members. Questions and discussion followed.

Sarah M. Howes, Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and Harold R. Fitch, State Geologist and Chief of the Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals in the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, testified in support of the bill.

Sean Hammond, Deputy Policy Director for the Michigan Environmental Council, testified in opposition to the bill. Questions followed. A copy of his written testimony is attached.

Brad Garmon, Director of Conservation and Emerging Issues for the Michigan Environmental Council, responded to members' questions.

Tom Frazier, Legislative Liaison for Michigan Townships Association, testified in opposition to the bill.

Emanuel Z. Manos, representing Evergreen Exploration L.L.C., testified in support of the bill. Questions followed.

The following individuals submitted testimony cards in opposition to the bill, but did not wish to speak:

John LaMacchia, Legislative Associate in State Government Affairs for the Michigan Municipal League;

Kara Cook, Policy Assistant, for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters;

Charlotte Jameson, Policy Manager Assistant for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters; and

Mike Berkowitz, Legislative and Political Director for the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter.

The Chair laid before the committee House Bill 5215.

HB 5215 (Cole) Crimes; animals; penalties and prohibition to remove a dog collar; provide for under certain circumstances.

Representative Cole, the bill sponsor, explained the bill.

Amy Trotter, Deputy Director for Michigan United Conservation Clubs, testified in support of the bill.

Mike Thorman, Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation, testified in support of the bill. Questions followed.

The following individuals submitted testimony cards in support of the bill, but did not wish to speak:

Joe Hudson, representing the UP Bear Houndsmen Association;

Tim Dusterwinkle, President of the Michigan Bear Hunters Association;

Roger Thorman, representing the MI Fox Hunters Association; and

Jim Wale, representing the Michigan State United Coon Hunters.

The Chair laid before the committee House Bill 5043.

HB 5043 (Driskell) Natural resources; inland lakes; installation of stream gauges; exempt from permit requirement.

Representative Driskell, the bill sponsor, explained the bill. A copy of her handout is attached.

Dr. Jon Bartholic, Director of the Institute of Water Research at Michigan State University, testified in support of the bill. Questions followed. A copy of his written testimony is attached.

Frank Ruswick, Consultant for the Institute of Water Research at Michigan State University, addressed questions from various members.

Laura Young, Research Associate for Institute of Water Research at Michigan State University, responded to a member's questions.

The following individuals submitted testimony cards in support of the bill, but did not wish to speak:

Kara Cook, Policy Assistant, for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters;
Charlotte Jameson, Policy Manager Assistant for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters;
Sean Hammond, Deputy Policy Director for the Michigan Environmental Council;
Mike Berkowitz, Legislative and Political Director for the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter;
and Robert Gordon, Executive Committee Member for the Sierra Club-Huron Valley Group.

Representative Goike moved to excuse Representatives Lyons and McBroom from today's committee meeting.

There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the members were excused.

There being no other business before the committee; **Representative Rendon moved to adjourn the meeting.**

The motion prevailed, the time being 10:12 a.m.

The Chair declared the Committee adjourned.

Andrea M. LaFontaine, Chair
House Standing Committee on Natural Resources

Joy Brewer, Committee Clerk

Date approved by the committee